

MALBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of 2023 Annual Parish Meeting *under the Chairmanship of Cllr John Yeoman.*

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Date: 19 th April 2023 | | Venue & Time: Village Hall Annexe, commencing at 7.00pm |
| <u>Present:</u> Cllr Madge Bailey Cllr Vanessa Harris Cllr Richard Harrod Cllr Ann Kendall Cllr Paul Pedrick Cllr John Sampson Cllr John Yeoman (in the chair) | <u>In Attendance:</u> Mrs Katharine Harrod – Clerk & Minute taker Dist. Cllr Judy Pearce Dist. Cllr Mark Long Emma Reece - NT Ranger Parishioners: 9 | <u>Apologies:</u> County Cllr Rufus Gilbert Cllr Lucinda Goodhead |

| Ref | Minutes | Action |
|--------|--|--------|
| 2023-1 | THE MINUTES of the meeting held on 20 th April 2022 had already been agreed and signed as a true record. | |

Cllr John Yeoman, in the Chair and Chairman of Malborough Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the Annual meeting of the Parish, highlighting the fact that it was an opportunity for everyone to hear reports and comment on how the Officers of the village are doing and highlight any areas of concern or aspiration.

2023-2 DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Cllrs Mark Long & Judy Pearce:

This municipal year has been marked by the sad death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the accession of King Charles III. Many of us attended the Proclamation of the new King at Follaton House in September. The Platinum Jubilee celebrations in June were enjoyed by many residents in most of the parishes in the Ward.

As we emerged from the worst of Covid, the cost-of-living crisis started to bite, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the problems caused by interrupted gas supplies to Europe which saw energy prices and consequent inflation rocket. This has not been an easy year for many residents, and South Hams has set up and administered a number of schemes to help residents who find themselves financially challenged. A complete list of current schemes is always available on the council website. We have also reviewed the arrangements for council tax discounts and revised the policy on additional occasional one-off help for residents with council tax payments.

Nearly two hundred Ukrainian guests have come to live with local households in the district on the six-month scheme. Some are still with their original hosts and some have moved on. The SHDC housing team have been active in finding new accommodation. The children have settled well into local schools. Recently the Chairman of the Council organised a day for all the guests to meet up at the Watermark in Ivybridge. It was a huge success, especially for the children, who really enjoyed meeting so many other Ukrainian children, often for the first time. Many adults have found work and are making good progress with learning English if they were not fluent already, but understandably many long to go home.

The District Council continues to deliver on its Corporate Strategy 'Better Lives for All.' This has set a programme of actions which members wanted to see and was unanimously endorsed by them. There are diverse projects from climate change, conservation area appraisal reviews, helping villages deliver neighbourhood plans, to better service delivery and customer satisfaction and the building of the first council houses in the district for two generations, at St Anns Chapel. The recent award of well over a million pounds of UKSPF funding will see exciting projects for regenerative farming advances and decarbonisation of the marine sector in the South Hams, along with studies to encourage active travel. The setting up of the Freeport between Plymouth City Council and the South Hams on joint sites is another tremendous opportunity for the district.

MALBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of 2023 Annual Parish Meeting *under the Chairmanship of Cllr John Yeoman.*

Hopefully, you will have noticed some improvement in the speed of planning decisions being taken as there are a number of new planners working for the authority, although fully resourcing the team remains a problem not just for us, but for most councils. A few applications are still caught up in the backlog, usually because they are awaiting additional information. In late spring 2022 the Council adopted a new Charter with applicants. This promises quicker decisions by the council in return for less ongoing negotiations from the applicants/agents during the life of an application – in other words applicants would have to withdraw if there are problems and come back in when they were resolved. We are starting to consider the first revision of the Joint Local Plan, but it may get delayed by the outcome of the proposed national planning reforms and the enacting of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. Planning activity in general continues to be very busy in the ward, but it is excellent news that all the parishes now have neighbourhood plans, even if minor modifications in Salcombe and South Milton seem to be taking an eternity to happen.

In the Ward, the Council's most significant projects have been the construction of the new harbour workshop and five new employment units in Salcombe. Both are at Batson Creek. The employment units are now let to local marine businesses and are due to be handed over imminently. There is some delay to the completion of the workshop, and it will probably not be possible to move in until the end of the summer. Construction and manpower shortages on the part of the contractor have caused the late delivery of this project. The public EV charging points are now operational on the Creek car park in Salcombe.

Housing continues to be one of the major problems in the ward as even with more houses gaining permission such as the site at the top of Salcombe behind the garage, and the second phase of Alston Gate in Malborough at last being started, the number of properties becoming second homes or short term lets continues to outnumber any new houses built. Over the year evidence for owners wishing to keep their short term lets on business rates has had to be presented for them to qualify from 1st April 2023, and second homeowners will have to pay an extra 100% council tax from 1st April 2025, since it is unlikely the legislation will be passed in time for this to happen earlier. Meanwhile the number of private longer-term rentals has been squeezed and rents continue to go up. Local Housing Allowance has not been adjusted since 2018 and is now totally inadequate to help meet the rents being charged. Urgent reform of the whole housing market is required and a Housing Commission is being set up by Exeter University at the instigation of all the Devon local authorities to look into the problem and make recommendations for change.

Climate change and the net zero ambition continues to occupy us. The Council has commissioned a report to find out exactly the best way of tackling its own carbon reduction problems both at Follaton House and in the workforce. It is likely that locality officers and grounds maintenance teams will have electric vehicles during the next Council term, but electric or alternative fuel for waste collection vehicles is probably further off. That is why the Council's offer of funding to help set up local composting schemes is a good bet. Some parishes have started engaging on this to deliver locally, now that the council's brown bin service is optional. It is good to see that several parishes have established groups to work locally on climate change and carbon reduction projects. A new Emergency climate Emergency Planning Statement has come into force and affects all planning applications submitted since the beginning of December 2022. It will make demolition and rebuilding much harder to justify, and there are much stricter rules on thermal efficiency and local energy generation, installation of EV charging points etc.

Meanwhile the elections are creeping up on us faster than we know. I have decided after a term as Leader of the Council in very difficult circumstances of the pandemic, a change of Chief Executive, inflation and ever-increasing budgetary pressures, to stand down. It is time for someone else to take over, both at the helm and in the ward. I shall though be keeping an interested eye on how things go from here. It has been a real pleasure and a privilege working with you all over the past nine years and getting to know so many residents all over the Ward and the District.

MALBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of 2023 Annual Parish Meeting *under the Chairmanship of Cllr John Yeoman.*

Cllr Long: The new bin service has stabilised and targets are being met – the current target is for a maximum of 80 missed bins per 10,000 collections. When FCC had the service the missed collections were in the region of 4,000.

There is also a six week program for street sweepers – meaning that (providing the weather is appropriate) each parish should see a sweeper every six weeks.

Also noted that public toilet access is now free of charge.

2023-3 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Received from Cllr Rufus Gilbert:

2022/23 has been another very challenging year for local authorities and government.

- 1) The housing of our Ukrainian guests and getting their children in to school, on top of assisting the Afgans and Hongkongers has been challenging and continues to be so for DCC.
- 2) Covid-19 The winter did not see another major outbreak and the flu also seemed not to have been a major problem.
- 3) Avian Influenza. This has proved challenging on top of the human virus and influenza.
- 4) Coronation celebration road closure party applications have predominantly been going well.
- 5) Scams are still proving a terrible blight and effecting some people horribly across Devon.
- 6) Highways. We had made headway in catching up with potholes and clearing drainage gullies, but the winter rains and frosts have set things back a bit. We are starting to catch up again and the recently announced £200M announced from Govt to help, giving DCC £9.4M will help.
- 7) We now have a new Chief Executive and head of Children's services which should prove beneficial for all and not least the DCC budget.
- 8) This has been the most difficult DCC budget to set in memory. At one point it looked to be the end of Devon County Council
- 9) Devolution deal for Devon to include Plymouth and Torbay at Level 2 has been agreed by the Levelling UP Minister subject a final business case being agreed by all parties along with parliamentary approval. This will assist in providing improved housing, public transport and Investment opportunities
- 10) Plymouth & South Devon Freeport. This is now up and running well with CEO and Chairman etc being fully employed. I am a director.
- 11) LEP's. Local Enterprise Partnerships were dissolved at the last budget statement and the roles will be undertaken by my DCC portfolio of Economy. The reason being to make the delivery of the service more democratically accountable.

LOCAL ISSUES

- Higher Town road is to be resurfaced later this summer
- I gave from my locality fund £400.00 for a Platinum Jubilee Commemorative gift for local children.
- I have attended to a variety of local issues over the past year.

2023-4 PARISH COUNCIL REPORT – Cllr John Yeoman

This has been a historical year for a number of reasons. Could be for the number of prime ministers we had to put up with. But really it was a year punctuated by royal events. In June we had the Queen's Platinum celebrations, in the Village centred on this village hall. Then in September the Queen sadly died after a wonderful life and we had the Accession of Charles III. Next month will see his coronation and again we will have celebrations here in the village hall.

MALBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of 2023 Annual Parish Meeting *under the Chairmanship of Cllr John Yeoman.*

Despite all the action on the National level the parish council carried on as usual. Although I did miss two meetings because I was told of the need to travel!!

First it is a time of the year to thank all those on the Parish Council and who help us. Kevin unfortunately resigned during the year frustrated by the lack of movement on some planning applications that parishioners had consulted him about. Kathy our clerk who keeps things running when I am not here and especially when I am at home!! Ann for all her support and for still making sure that the Messenger can grace the tables of the parish. All the members of the Council for what they do quietly to maintain the speed lights, the defibrillators and grit the roads. Paul who is retiring from the council and Kevin have both offered to carry on gritting for the two parishes. I must also thank Judy and Mark our district Councillors and Rufus from the County for coming to meetings and taking our views and concerns forward.

We do have another volunteer who is hanging up his tools this year, Geoff Allen. Geoff has been looking after the playground here at the Village Hall doing all the small and not so small repairs as they are needed. Just recently replacing the two rotten posts on the trim trail with recycled plastic poles. The representatives from South Hams and the Insurance Company are always very impressed by the way the play area is looked after. Thank you Geoff we will endeavour to maintain the high standards you set.

From a planning point of view it was a quiet year with only thirty applications. The worrying part is the time it is taking between applications and decisions being made, such as the Salcombe Retreat application. One of the main worries of parishioners is the lack of enforcement, which led to one of the Council resigning.

As a council we are successful when we do things not related to anyone else such as the gritting, the speed lights and white lining. Madge and Dave painted white lines at the Green and the Square much to the surprise of many visitors. This proved very good during the holiday season and was only designed to last until Higher Town is surfaced and marked properly. We live in Hope or very close to it.

The largest project of the year was the Jubilee playground in Malborough Park which was completed and opened in June. This has proved popular with the children although the subterranean instincts of some of them had to be curbed with more matting and grass seeds. Now that playground is complete we have been in touch with Fields in Trust for them to take on that area instead of the area for the extra car parking here at the Village Hall. This would improve the disabled access to the hall and remove the parking problems that afflict the village when the hall and field are busy. I know we tried before but now we do have more to bargain with.

This year we have updated the defibrillator at the Post Office with a good deal which enabled two to go to Cumber, one to Karageen and one to Higher Rew campsite so giving better coverage for the Parish. Also the training for them was well attended. Also the Holm Oak for the Queen has been planted on the other side of the access road to that for the Duke of Edinburgh.

On the financial front the Council increased the precept a little to keep pace with rising prices. We do have a significant sum of money from the new houses but that can only be spent on specific things and not used for day to day costs. But we have negotiated the setting aside of some of the money towards maintenance of sport and recreation which will give the council more time to spend the money.

We do have a growing problem of petty vandalism around the village. Problems with Village Hall, play areas, the Churchyard, toilets, pre-school and a potentially more serious event in the wood. As a Parish we need to stop it before it becomes more serious and all incidents are reported to the Police. The coverage of CCTV will be increased as a deterrent but also a source of information if the problem persists.

Remember the celebrations for the Coronation on Sunday 7th of May. Starting with a service in the church, Barbecue here, school sports and maypole dancing, sideshows and tea.

MALBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of 2023 Annual Parish Meeting *under the Chairmanship of Cllr John Yeoman.*

After thirty years on the council and giving this report for the twenty ninth time I would like to pay tribute to the support I personally had from all those that have served on the Parish Council and our District and County Councillors. Above all for the help and patience of the six clerks that have put up with me.

I thank all the current Councillors who are not carrying on and wish the best of luck to the new council that will take over next month.

2023-5 PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT from Lauren Stallard, Head of School and Jane Greaves, Head Governor:

I am delighted to attend my first Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting as the new Head of School at Malborough with South Huish. I took on the role in September, replacing Jackie Heath who retired in July. A commissioning service was held at All Saints Church, Malborough for myself and Henry Everitt who is the new Head of School at Salcombe. We also welcomed new teachers to the school in Reception (Ashlyn Nixon), Class 2 (Anna Freeman) and Class 4 (Scott Turner who moved across from Loddiswell Primary). During the Summer holidays we managed to fill three skips as we decluttered and organised the school and began work on our outside areas. There is still a lot of work to be done to develop them, but we are hoping with PTFA fundraising we will be able to raise funds to support this. We also celebrate our 150th birthday this year. As Luscombe Maye are also celebrating their 150th birthday we have joined them completing a colouring competition where the children won prizes. We are holding a cream tea on the 26th of May to welcome old staff and alumni to the school where there will be a display of Malborough through the ages and Jan Clark will be selling her book, 150 years of Malborough. We also have community events at the Old Inn and at Cliff House and an auction of promises to help raise money to fund the improvement of the school grounds.

We have seventy-eight children on the roll at present, with two children pending on admissions. We have fourteen children starting with us in September. We have seen a rise in local families qualifying for pupil premium funding.

The children still access Forest School lessons both on and off site in the Malborough woods. The children benefit so much by spending time in the Forest School area and learning about nature and the environment. However, there have been some incidents where the area has been littered with broken glass and teenagers were present during some of the sessions.

We still heavily rely on the use of the Village Hall having no school hall onsite for our PE lessons (particularly in the wet and cold winters)! We have also been able to arrange for two theatre companies to visit the children using the hall space where they performed The Parcel and Cinderella. To celebrate science week, we also had The Explore Dome deliver a spectacular session on light and space. We also held a Gym and Dance show with the rest of our Federation at the hall. We will be using the space and fields on June 23rd for Sports Day.

We continue to attend monthly church services at All Saints Church Malborough and for the first time held our Remembrance Service there. During Christmas, the children performed the Nativity and Christmas plays at the church and our choir performed a carol service, afterwards we were joined by Father Christmas on his sleigh! We also held our services for Christingle, Mother's Day, and Easter at the church.

The school continues to support a homeless charity in Plymouth called the Shekinah Mission. Our Year 6 students are taking part in the Devon and Torbay Civic Award where they are supporting charities of their choice. They have been volunteering to help clean the church and will be hosting a 'Big Brekkie' on the 19th May to support Christian Aid Week.

Our spiritual detectives are taking part in The National Younger Leadership programme led by The Church of England where they discuss topics relating to Love Example Action Dream with the Christian ethos and how they can be young leaders in society.

MALBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of 2023 Annual Parish Meeting *under the Chairmanship of Cllr John Yeoman.*

Our Eco-council have been ensuring we are running as an Eco-school taking part in a War on Waste Project with Devon. They have been beach cleaning at North Sands and are working with the Church for their re-wilding project.

The school received a section 8 Ofsted inspection at the end of November where we received a 'Good' rating and inspectors were pleased with the new journey the school was being led to. Our personal development of the children was praised as a strength. Our Year 5 and Year 6 children visited the Houses of Parliament in November and had lots of questions for the MP Anthony Mangnall. Year 3 and 4 visited the Ramm museum in Exeter to learn about the Romans as part of their history topic. Year 1 and 2 went to visit the RNLI in Salcombe and HMS Magpie and their Maritime museums to learn about our local history. Reception have also visited a local farm to see all the animals and learn how they are cared for.

Lots more activities are planned for the summer term, sailing lessons, visits to the beach, whole school surf day, wellbeing festival at Buckfastleigh, visit to Exeter Cathedral and Synagogue, the zoo, canoeing with singing paddles, Sports Day and residential.

The school's summer fair is on Saturday 25th June to be held at the village hall.

For the Coronation celebrations we will be holding Maypole Dancing and sporting events on behalf of the school.

We thank you very much for the support you continue to give to the school and hope to see you at some of our birthday celebrations.

A request was made for incidents of vandalism to be advised to the surrounding area. Also for the school and Parish Council to work together regarding the potential installation of CCTV.

2023-6 FEOFFEEES REPORT

The Feoffees is the 2nd oldest charity in Devon, having been founded in 1573 and is one of 80th earliest charities in England and Wales. It was set up to help the poor, education and the parish church. Most of the properties originally owned have now been sold and the proceeds have been invested, the interest on that investment is spent annually to the benefit of the parish.

Last year Feoffees were able to provide 9 emergency lifelines and to help 5 students in higher education.

If anyone knows of anyone in need of a lifeline or assistance with further education please contact Gill Boyce.

2023-7 NATIONAL TRUST

Ranger Emma Reece

The National Trust have concentrated on their nature recovery work which has been mainly focussed on South Down Farm.

- 2,000 hedging plants have been planted this winter.
- Management changes have had a positive effect on bird numbers, particularly skylarks & ciril bunting.
- Ciril bunting numbers increased to 186 – this is an incredible achievement as the species was close to extinction in the late 1980s. This area now holds 5% of the UK population of that bird
- A new footpath was installed on the farm this year.

MALBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of 2023 Annual Parish Meeting *under the Chairmanship of Cllr John Yeoman.*

- There will soon be a permissive bridleway via South Down Farm, linked to Jacobs Lane, running to the back of the NT office and then back to Rew – this is ready subject to works to some gateways and new signage that needs to be erected.
- The next project is looking at the multi user path from East Soar to Overbecks – this is quite a big project and will have to go through planning at South Hams District Council.
- Following the horrendous wildfire at Bolberry the management of the site has been completely reviewed.

A request was made to better advertise the meetings held in relation to Bolberry.

OPEN FORUM AND GENERAL DISCUSSION OF PARISH AFFAIRS.

Samantha Dennis, candidate for South Hams District Council elections introduced herself to those present. Samantha has been involved with the Kingsbridge Information Centre, local Farmers Market, was Chairman of the Kingsbridge & Salcombe Chamber of Commerce for five years as well as helping to organise many local events.

James Heaven also introduced himself, he has a background in interior architecture and an interest in planning.

Cllr Mark Long, who currently serves as our Ward Councillor for South Hams District Council, will also be running again, Mark is well known in the local community having been heavily involved with the Ward for many years.

AT 19:47hrs the Chair, Cllr John Yeoman, closed the meeting with thanks to all those that had attended.

Signed as a true record: _____

Print Name & Date: _____